This Issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Consists of 2 Pages

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news contents and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor throughout the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1918, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918.

All good ends can be worked out by good means. Those that cannot are bad.—Dickens.

WHOLE NO. 1480 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1939. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 29, NO. 34

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Communism died in the United States on Aug. 21, 1939. It did not expire from natural causes. It was murdered by Stalin and Hitler.

We know it is breaking all the rules of the murder mystery game to disclose the identity of the culprits before unravelling the crime, but in this case we don't regard the murder as a crime but as a blessing.

Let's go back a bit, as our famous detectives do, and assemble the facts before proceeding to disclose how we arrive at our deductions.

You will remember that ten years ago the Communists had no joy in this country. The only time anyone ever heard from them was when they would stir up a riot and get their heads bashed in just to make the headlines and let their comrades in Moscow know they were alive.

But within the past three years the Communists have spread themselves to a considerable extent in numbers and in influence among those parts. There were three major factors contributing to their development. First, was the formation of the C. I. O. which went out and hired Communists, supplied them with cash money and gave them a free field in which to operate. Second, was the natural reaction among all classes of people in America against Nazism and Fascism. Third, was the sudden resolve on the part of the Communists to go "respectable."

Let us enlarge on this final angle. Earl Browder took a trip to Moscow a couple of years ago and sold Stalin a bill of goods. We can't get anywhere in America, he told his chief, unless we dye our hair, make up our faces and go in for a complete outward transformation.

The Permanent Wave

Well, Browder returned to the United States with Stalin's blessing and took the Communist Party to the beauty parlor.

The C. P. entered this "shoppe" as a red-faced, blowzy, slovenly, wild-haired, disreputable wretch. It came out looking like a stream-lined, glamorous Hollywood chorine. The apostles of dictatorship suddenly took up the worship of democracy. The spokesmen for revolution mysteriously discovered a deep love for the American Constitution. The desecration of God began milking goo-goo eyes at humanity. The internationalists of the world blossomed forth as patriots and nationalists.

This disguise enabled the Communists to get into places which formerly were shut tight against them. They got their foot in the door, they couldn't be shoved out. The transformation proved a quick and sensational success.

This was the situation until Aug. 21, 1939. On that day Messrs. Stalin and Hitler got together. Communism signed on the dotted line with Nazism. The dictators shook hands across the borders of Poland. The Reds kissed Hitler on both cheeks and made friends with a regime that represents all that is hateful and obnoxious to Americans.

Consternation reigned in the office of the Daily Worker, official organ of the Communist Party here. The editors did not know what to do. They saw the permanent wave of the proud beauty whom they had nursed through a major transformation come all undone and uncried in the grist of foul air. What could they do? The first day they did nothing. The Daily Worker printed not a line of the story. Then Browder and his buddies cabled Stalin in Moscow, "What they hanged."

The Permanent Aftermath

Comrade Stalin answered nothing but "cut me another slice" and the poor comrades here had to take it. With what little enthusiasm they could muster they declared that as a result of the Stalin-Hitler pact "it is safe to say that the camp of peace and democracy will become strengthened."

What do they mean "it is safe to say." Do they mean "maybe" In the sense that it is safer for hatchet-men to work for their scalps. Perhaps. But certainly it is not safe for the Communists to utter such hogwash to an aroused American citizenry.

That is why we said in our opening paragraph that Communism in this country was assassinated by the Moscow-Berlin alliance. This deal has stripped all the beauty parlor tricks from the Communist Party. It has exposed Communism in its true light to the people of their country and the sight is revolting.

Never again will the Communists be able to extol democracy without being hanisted by Hitler's shadow. Never again will they be able to condemn Fascism without arousing the mocking laughter of the progressive citizens of our country. Never again will the liberal-fakers be able to fool the true liberals.

Let the workers of the country also take heed. The Communists are today more strongly entrenched in the C. I. O. than ever before. These hypocritical, insincere, conscienceless agents of Moscow are trying to use the labor movement as a revolutionary vehicle. They care no more for labor's welfare than they do for democracy. If ever the time was ripe for the workers of America to repudiate the C. I. O. and Communism for their own good and for the welfare of the nation, that time has now arrived.

Hollywood Producers Sign Five-Year Contract With Stage Employes Union

Los Angeles, Calif. (AFLWNS)—Organized labor in Los Angeles is definitely and justifiedly jubilant with the agreement signed by the major motion picture producers and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada, A. F. of L. Hollywood unit.

Representatives of the union interpreted the agreement as a pledge that will give members of A. F. of L. studio locals an undisputable closed shop, better working conditions and immediate wage increases, and, in addition, ending threats of a strike of 12,000 studio technicians and other locals on that group.

In an article giving an account of the terms and significance of the agreement the Los Angeles Times, organized labor's official newspaper, said:

"In the agreement, it was announced the producers also pledged themselves to enter negotiations within a reasonable time and to continue diligently until consummated, upon collective bargaining demands for improved wage scales, hours and working conditions.

"The pact was signed by John F. Gatzke and Frank Stickling, representing the AFL Union, and Joseph M. Schenck, Walter Wanger, Frank Freeman and E. J. Mannix of the producers' group.

"IATSE locals involved are Cameramen, Sound Technicians, Laboratory Workers, Propertymen, Grippmen, Laborers and Utility Workers; Set Electricians, Costumers, Make-up Artists and Studio Projectionists.

"Studios affected by the agreement include Columbia, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, RKO, 20th Century-Fox, Universal, Warner Brothers, Walter Wanger and Hal Roach.

"It was understood that other AFL studio locals signatory to former producers' agreements back in packs are negotiating for agreements with the studios through their International officers.

"The dual group backed by the CIO, it was learned, conferred for several weeks to prevent the signing of the agreement by the IATSE representatives and the studio managers, but evidently their claims to membership and possible dire action against the studios did not have very much effect.

"Other International groups, parties to the basic agreement between the unions and the producers, which has prevailed for a number of years, in addition to the IATSE, are International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; United Brotherhood of Carpenters; American Federation of Musicians; International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs."

I. T. U. Is Not Suspended From A. F. of L., Printers Are Told

Morrison Says Executive Council of American Federation of Labor Is Only Considering Suspension.

Fort Worth, Texas (AFLWNS)—Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, said in a letter to Woodruff Randolph, secretary-treasurer of the International Typographical Union, in connection here, that the A. F. of L. has not suspended the International Typographical Union, as reported in press dispatches from Atlantic City last week-end following the adjournment of the A. F. of L. Executive Council.

The Atlantic City dispatches said the I. T. U. had been suspended because it had refused to pay an assessment duly authorized by the American Federation of Labor. Morrison's letter explained that the Executive Council had adopted a resolution to the effect that if the I. T. U. at its coming convention, or its executive board, failed to make provision for the payment of the assessment that the Secretary-Treasurer of the A. F. of L. be directed to return their next per capita tax check, and if any check is received in the meantime that the same be held until the action of the I. T. U. convention is known on this question.

W. C. Roberts, A. F. of L. Legislative Committee Chairman, Retires at 83

Veteran Member of International Typographical Union Returns to His Chicago Home After Twenty Years' Service in the Interest of Labor Legislation.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—William C. Roberts, for many years chairman of the American Federation of Labor Legislative Committee, resigned from that important position on August 22 at the end of two decades of never-ending work in connection with Federal legislation for the benefit of American working men and women.

Mr. Roberts recently celebrated his eighty-third birthday. In addition, he has been a member of the International Typographical Union for sixty-four years, having joined the Fort Wayne, Indiana, Typographical Union No. 78 on April 6, 1875.

Retires as American Federation of Labor Legislative Committee Chairman

WILLIAM C. ROBERTS

Handled A. F. of L. Congressional Labor Legislation since 1919. Became a member of Organized Labor sixty-four years ago. Gives up legislative work at eighty-three years.

From 1875 to 1893 he was employed as a printer on morning newspapers in many cities. In August, 1893, he accepted a position as a Chicago evening paper as a labor reporter.

When William Randolph Hearst started the "American" in Chicago in 1900, Mr. Roberts went on that paper and on the "Examiner" for eighteen years as a special reporter on labor matters.

The 1916 and 1917 conventions of the American Federation of Labor authorized the publication by the American Federation of Labor History, Encyclopedia and Reference Book was completed. President Gompers asked Mr. Roberts to accept the position of chairman of the American Federation of Labor Legislative Committee, in which capacity he served until his retirement.

In 1923 and 1924 he was traveling secretary to President Gompers. During that period he traveled 25,000 miles with President Gompers and was holding his hand when he died in San Antonio, Texas, December 13, 1924.

"I have had a wonderful time with the American Federation of Labor and regret that I must retire," Mr. Roberts said as he surveyed the long list of anti-labor legislation defeated and the longer list of labor legislation enacted by Congress since he took charge of the A. F. of L. Legislative Committee twenty years ago. "The work was most fascinating. My newspaper experience made it easier."

"Furthermore, the thoughtful help given me by the late President Gompers, President Green, Secretary-Treasurer Morrison, and the members of the Executive Council always will remain a cherished memory.

"Owing to illness in my family it became necessary for me to retire. I shall live in Chicago."

Plan to End Jurisdictional Strikes Launches Utility Expansion Project

Commonwealth Edison Company Will Begin $15,000,000 Building Program Based Upon Assurance of No Work Stoppages, President Coyne of A. F. of L. Building and Construction Trades Department, Declares.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—John P. Coyne, president of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, announced at the Department's headquarters here that Per-Commonwealth Edison Company of Chicago has agreed to start a $15,000,000 plant expansion project upon his statement that stoppages of work occasioned by jurisdictional disputes would interrupt the development of the company's plans.

Mr. Coyne's announcement of the understanding with the Commonwealth Edison Company was among the first outstanding reactions in the building and construction industry following the agreement recently reached at Atlantic City between the A. F. of L. Building and Construction Trades Department and the Associated General Contractors banning work stoppages in jurisdictional disputes, which are to be settled according to procedures developed by the department, the union holding the work when the dispute occurs continuing to hold it until the dispute is adjusted.

The chief of the Building and Construction Trades Department said the Commonwealth Edison Company had agreed, in return, "to make the work 100 per cent union."

The expansion program, Mr. Coyne explained, contemplated a new power plant at Pekin, Ill., remodeling of the Northwest and Crawford avenues plants in Chicago, additional installations at the Fisk street plant and power lines from Pekin to the Crawford avenue plant.

Mr. Coyne said the understanding was reached at a conference in Chicago, and that the start of the ex-

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A. F. L. LUMBER UNION WINS GOOD AGREEMENT

Contract With Logging Company at Morton, Wash., Provides 40-Hour Week and Other Standard Union Conditions.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Morton, Wash.—Members of Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union No. 2767, chartered by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, are deservedly jubilant over the model union-shop, preferential hiring agreement negotiated with the Kosmos Logging Company, of Morton.

The agreement, covering about 200 loggers, is replete with provisions adding to the security and welfare of the men who work in the woods.

Among the progressive clauses are those recognizing the union as the sole collective bargaining agency in the company's logging operations and limiting the regular hours of labor to eight hours per day and forty hours per week, with in case of breakdowns, with time and one-half for work performed on all Sundays and seven generally recognized holidays.

There are also provisions protecting the rights of the employee when transfers are made to different classifications of work and guard them against unwarranted suspension or discharge.

If a reduction in the force is made necessary, the agreement provides that men shall be laid off in the inverse order in which they were hired. When the force is increased the men are to be reemployed in the inverse order in which they were laid off, with the provision that those last men employes shall be hired until the list of former employes is exhausted.

With respect to new employes the company agrees to give preference to members of the union when they are available and competent.

In addition, the agreement contains the following significant provision:

"There shall be no discrimination of any kind against any member of the union by the employer, foreman or superintendent because of union activities."

Finally, the agreement bans strikes and lockouts in the following language:

"During the life of this agreement no strike shall be called or sanctioned by the union, nor lockout shall be ordered by the employer until every peaceable method of settlement of difficulties shall have been tried. At no time shall union employes be required to cross a strike breaker, go through picket lines or past armed guards."

BOWLING ALLEY EMPLOYES GAIN BIG WAGE INCREASE

Minneapolis Building Service Union Adds 20 Per Cent Raise to Pay Envelopes of 275 Workers.

Minneapolis, Minn. (AFLWNS)—Building Service Employes Local No. 187 of the Building Service Employes International Union, A. F. of L., state, announced the negotiation of agreements with seven outstanding Minneapolis bowling alleys.

The agreements carry a wage increase of 20 per cent for pin setters. There will be no hour limit on the operation of open bowling, but the price of bowling for those hours in keeping bowling will be advanced five cents.

Business Representative Walfred Saugerud of the Building Service Employes Union, who organized the bowling alleys under the direction of the Twin City Joint Council, said that "every cent of the wage increase goes directly into the pockets."

Three hundred employes are involved in the drive to organize all bowling alley employes.

AUTO WORKERS ENTER DETROIT CENTRAL BODY

Detroit, Mich. (AFLWNS).—Delegates from the A. F. of L. United Auto Workers Local of the McGord Radiator Company employes at Wyandotte were seated by the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor.

American Federation of Labor Wins Decision Eliminating "Loan Shark"

Minnesota Supreme Court Holds Exaction of Usury Is a Public Nuisance Outlawed by Statute; Case Was Argued by Joseph A. Padway, A. F. of L. Counsel.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

A decision just been rendered by the Supreme Court of the State of Minnesota outlawing the "loan shark" evil.

The decision is of interest to the American Federation of Labor and its affiliates because the American Federation of Labor joined with the Attorney General of Minnesota and the County Attorney of Hennepin County in the suit brought against the Metro Loan Company, operated by R. J. O'Neil, which lent money to necessitous borrowers at rates of interest ranging from 300 per cent to 1000 per cent.

The County Attorney of Hennepin County instituted a suit for an injunction against the Metro Loan Company and for a receiver for its notes, documents and business.

The trial court granted a temporary injunction and appointed a receiver.

The loan company appealed to the Supreme Court, whereupon the Minnesota State Federation of Labor joined with the State and County authorities in prosecuting this litigation and requested the American Federation of Labor to help likewise.

The American Federation of Labor through its counsel, Judge Joseph A. Padway, filed a brief and also presented oral argument to the court.

The issue in the case revolved around the extraordinary procedure by which the authorities secured an injunction against the "loan shark" from continuing in business and by which a receiver was appointed to take immediate possession of the notes, assets and business of the loan company.

Usury Laws Are Ineffective

It was pointed out to the court:

(1) That for upwards of thirty years the American Federation of Labor had fought the "loan shark" evil;

(2) That usury laws were ineffective because borrowers invariably wish to conceal the fact that they have any dealings with "loan sharks" and usually are unable to bring suit through lack of funds for costs and counsel;

(3) That the American Federation of Labor in an effort to eliminate the "loan shark" had approved of sound predicting laws whereby legitimate lenders could engage in the business of making small loans to borrowers at reasonable rates of interest and under strict regulation of the State;

(4) That in Minnesota, at the time these proceedings were started, there was no small loan law and the only effective method of eliminating the "loan shark" was through the procedure adopted by the public authorities of the State of Minnesota.

Why Usury Is Forbidden

In approving of this procedure the Minnesota Supreme Court said:

"* * * As stated, usury, by our statute, is not made a crime, so the State may not put a stop to the practice by criminal prosecution. However, our usury legislation clearly exhibits the policy of the State outlawing the taking of usury.

"It is forbidden. Why? In the interest of public welfare, to protect the helpless and the poor, always subject to the oppression and the rapacity of the money lenders who exact usury.

"On principle, where there is no adequate remedy either by criminal law or by the ordinary civil suit, equity may properly come to the rescue by appropriate injunctive relief.

"* * * Does a business in which every transaction is usurious, thereby illegally exhorting money from customers, being a considerable number of persons, and likely to affect their health, peace of mind and welfare, constitute a public nuisance?

Denounced as a Public Nuisance

"It would seem reasonable to consider that the carrying on, advertising, and openly conducting a business so that every transaction thereof is a criminal violation of the usury law enacted for the protection of the large class of necessitous persons in every community is a public nuisance. Courts of high standing have so declared. * * *

"In this situation should defendant's books and evidences of the usurious debts be restored to him? If the notes are disposed of and reach bona fide purchasers for value before maturity, the defense of usury is not available. The court should not give an opportunity for this to happen."

Decision Kills Loan Sharks

This decision is highly gratifying to the American Federation of Labor and its affiliates. It puts an end to the "loan shark" and his illegal interest rates of 300 per cent to 1000 per cent. It is a real achievement in the long and arduous program of the American Federation of Labor to rid the public of the "loan shark"

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Government, Business and Labor Urged To Cooperate to Promote Recovery

American Federation of Labor Appeals For United Action to Expand Production in the Interest of All Groups As Only Remedy for Continued Government Spending.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A fervent appeal for the Government of the United States to join hands with men and women and capital and industry to cooperate in a definite program to bring about business recovery by the expansion of production which would benefit not only business men and women as well, featured the current issue of the Monthly Survey of Business of the American Federation of Labor.

"To the followers of Keynesian spending," the underemployed there is no problem so vital today as that of increasing production to give them jobs and a decent income," and "for the millions who have jobs there is no hope for any substantial increase in living standards until production is increased," the Survey said.

Declaring that "we see no indication of any organized effort to lift production in this country as a substitute for Government spending," that "business has never had any organization for increasing productive activity, and that "business today is actually in a particularly favorable condition for sound, healthy expansion," the Survey continued:

"In spite of the sound condition of business, however, in spite of our immediate resources of idle capital, man power, equipment and the genius of our business men, there is no immediate prospect of the widespread industrial expansion this country needs. The old incentives are insufficient; the risks of business today are greater, the profits smaller. Yet if a steady expansion of business could be planned, American firms could unquestionably meet their present costs and earn very satisfactory profits.

Profit Motive Wobbles

"Low production levels today are a chief cause of low profits and high risk. Increased production will cut unit operating costs and raise profit margins.

"Since we cannot count on the old profit motive to send business into vigorous recovery, since no organization exists among business men to expand production, must we fall back on further spending of Government funds? Is there any other alternative?

"Experts tell us that production increases can be planned for the country as a whole. If the Government were to take the initiative in calling forth the cooperative effort of business, labor, farmers and other groups for a national increase in production and living standards, we cannot believe that the talent of our leaders would fail in this task.

"If this is not done however, we

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C. I. O. Textile Official Mobilizes Strike Breakers Against A.F.L. Union

Enrolls as Members of C. I. O. Local the Company Union Set Up By the Barre Wool Combing Company to Recruit Strike Breakers, Kill the American Federation of Labor Textile Workers Union and Smash the A. F. of L. Strike.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Barre, Mass.—A hearing before a trial examiner of the National Labor Relations Board was begun on August 24 at the Town Hall in Barre on the charge of unfair labor practices filed by the Textile Workers' Union 21928 of the American Federation of Labor against Barre Wool Combing Company, Ltd.

Numerous cases of brazen discrimination against the members of the A. F. of L. union caused the American Federation of Labor union to go out on strike more than a month ago.

The majority of the 700 employees of this wool combing mill are members of the A. F. of L. union and are participating in the strike.

In an effort to defeat the union, the company has set up an organization known as the "Barre Local Workers' Union," which has been functioning as a company union and as the employers' agent in recruiting strike breakers.

In the course of the strike, the C. I. O. under the leadership of Joseph Salerno, Massachusetts State Director of the Textile Workers' Union of America, has appeared on the scene and proceeded to take over the company union, signing up all strike breakers who have been hired since the beginning of the strike and who have taken the places of the striking A. F. of L. employes by passing through the picket lines under the protection of the State police.

It is reported that the majority of the strike breakers have signed application cards voting for affiliation with the C. I. O.

American Federation of Labor Wins Decision Eliminating "Loan Shark"

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who preys upon necessitous borrowers, chiefly wage earners.

Padway Outlines A. F. of L. Position

Judge Padway continued: "The American Federation of Labor, who argued the case, said:

"A comprehensive brief was filed with the court. I hope the authorities in other States will proceed in the same manner as did the authorities of the State of Minnesota.

"The legal department of the American Federation of Labor stands ready to give every aid and assistance in similar cases in the end that the 'loan shark' will be completely obliterated.

"This brief is more than a legal document. It is a social defense of first rate importance. Copies may be obtained by writing to Joseph A. Padway, counsel for the American Federation of Labor, Tower Building, Washington, D. C."

Drive Started to Organize Thousands Of N. Y. Chinese Restaurant Workers

A. F. of L. Restaurant Employes Union Charges Unbelievably Low Wages and Bad Work Conditions Are Imposed Upon Thousands.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—"An organization drive to bring the approximately 10,000 workers in Chinese restaurants, Greater New York into the fold of the A. F. of L. is now under way," Miguel Garriga, international vice president of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Alliance and Bartenders International League of America, which is the third largest international in the A. F. of L., announced in a statement issued here.

Mr. Garriga declared at his office, 701 6th Avenue, that a charter would shortly be issued for a Chinese restaurant workers local union. He said that recently a large number of the workers had requested that such a local be established.

At the same time, Mr. Garriga stated, official action was contemplated to lay before the proper authorities widespread cases of Chinese restaurant owners evading the social security and unemployment insurance laws.

Wage Scales Are Low

Unbelievably low scales of pay under almost incredibly bad working conditions prevail in the industry, according to Mr. Garriga.

He said that the pay for waiters ranges from $5 to $15 a month in some of the larger places and up to $25 a month in the smaller places where tips are even less than the filling ones in the bigger establishments.

The prevailing wages for chefs and dishwashers are $80 a month and $50 to $60 a month respectively.

Hours average from 12 to 16 a day and while the workers are supposedly entitled to regular meals, workers have placed evidence before Mr. Garriga that the food often consists of only the left-overs which no longer can be served to customers.

Monthly Pay Days Imposed

Another evil the Chinese restaurant workers complain of, Mr. Garriga continued, is that they are paid only one a month, and work usually 7 days a week with a half day off a week, without any additional compensations or other benefits. Almost all categories of workers are compelled to do work outside of that for which they are actually engaged.

In numerous places if a worker between so-called meal times should want even a cup of tea he is compelled to pay for it.

Chinese Employers Fight Unions

There are about 1200 Chinese restaurants in the city of whom somewhat over half belong to the American-Chinese Industrial Alliance, Mr. Garriga pointed out that ever since the workers began to show an insistent demand for organization the employers have tried to prevent any growth of unionism among them through intimidation and coercive measures.

Recently, he continued, the employers had formed what in English is called the Chinese-American Association but in Chinese is referred to as the Chinese Restaurant, Business and Employees Association, to use as a weapon against the spread of unionism. In this organization every owner has one vote while each group of 10 workers is entitled to only one vote.

Japan's War Against China Invoked to Prevent Labor Organization

One of the arguments used by employers to stop the workers from joining the union is that in these days of the Chinese-Japanese war all Chinese must stand united against Japan and there must be no separate organization of the workers, although the owners are in every way possible strengthening their own alliance.

This marks the first time since 1911 that a large unionization movement among Chinese restaurant workers has been undertaken. At that time about 2000 were enrolled in an organization which was smashed by terroristic methods of the employers who in many instances planted guns and opium in the homes of the most active of the union leaders.

CEMENT WORKERS UNIONS FORM MIDWEST COUNCIL

La Salle, Ill. (AFLWNS).—Delegates representing twelve of the sixteen unions in six midwestern states formed the Midwest District Council of the National Council of United Cement Workers, affiliated with the A. F. of L. at a two-day convention here. The officers were installed by William Schoenberg, Chicago, president of the National Council.

West Virginia Federation of Labor Presents Solid Front Against C. I. O. Raid on Building Trades Unions

Thomas Cairns is Re-elected President and Volney Andrews Chosen for Secretary-Treasurer.

Charleston, West Va. (AFLWNS).—The three-day convention of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor closed here with the adoption of a ringing resolution interpreted to be aimed against the disruptive invasion of the A. F. of L. building trade by the C. I. O. With regard to the C. I. O. raid, Francis J. Dillon, personal representative of William Green, president of the A. F. of L., said:

"There is no doubt but that we will be successful in repulsing the efforts of the C. I. O. The men of the building trades unions in West Virginia stand solid as one and for the American Federation of Labor."

The convention then adopted a resolution pledging all units to stand together and resist any forces which would seek to break up the organization.

Earlier in the convention the building trades delegates went on record C. I. O. schemes would be fought to a finish.

The principle speaker on the program of the final day was Daniel J. Duffy, president of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters, formerly of Wellsburg.

He urged that American made goods be demanded by unionists and that they refuse to handle merchandise bearing the union label.

Duffy said the purchase of American made goods should be considered a thing else toward the preservation of unionized labor and high standard of living.

Buy American

The Operative Potters' president complimented union workers in this section of the valley for their efforts in sponsoring a Buy American drive. But he warned that not only American made goods but American union made goods must be demanded.

"It is true," he declared, "that in union there is strength, and one of the best ways of showing this union and strength is to ask and demand only that is not made by union labor. A venture to say that if everyone insisted on the union label, the unemployment problem would be solved and the good feelings between employer and employee restored to a degree never before enjoyed in this country."

Another speaker for the day was Frank Snyder, West Virginia commissioner of labor, who gave praise to the A. F. of L. for its efforts in the government in guaranteeing free assembly, free speech and free press.

Other speakers were William Werren, representative of the Glass Bottle Blowers union; and John Busby, international representative of the Hod Carriers and Common Laborers union, in charge of West Virginia.

The convention voted to take a referendum by mail on the per capita assessment in the State. The assessment per member each year is now three cents and it is proposed to raise it to five cents.

Thomas Cairns of Charleston, who headed the State Federation since its reorganization a year ago, was re-elected president. Volney Andrews was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Other officers elected were: H. E. Welch, Charleston, vice president-at-large; and the following vice presidents: [illegible] Parkersburg; Orden Ryan, Bluefield; [illegible] Wellsburg; [illegible] Huntington; Tobey Rumbaugh, Morgantown; [illegible] Parkersburg; [illegible] Huntington; [illegible] Charleston.

The convention will meet in Huntington next year.

Government, Business and Labor Urged To Cooperate to Promote Recovery

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see no prospect of sufficient incentive from any source in the near future to the probability of further resort to Federal spending next year.

"We are opposed to the suggestion of Government leadership in such cooperative effort. The Secretary of Commerce has recently set up a staff for further study of industrial problems, but he makes no suggestion of cooperative effort for immediate business expansion.

Business Expansion Is Necessary

"Important as it is to study defects in our economic structure, we believe that business expansion is an immediate necessity. It must not wait on Government and business can and must put the unemployed to work in the fields now open at the earliest possible moment; that further studies to correct abuses in our industrial structure can be carried on without losing industrial expansion and employment to assist their completion.

"If business does not expand substantially before next spring, we shall have a further demand for Government spending, with its danger of inflation and consequent losses to wage earners. Action for business expansion on a sound basis is therefore urgent. Shall we advance on a cooperative basis, providing for the needs of all groups, or shall we accept the movement dominated by what is today's challenge to America."

Plan to End Jurisdictional Strikes Launches Utility Expansion Project

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pansion program would depend upon how quickly contracts were placed.

Since the agreement between the Building and Construction Trades Department and the Associated General Contractors was finalized, Mr. Coyne said, some 300 jurisdictional disputes have been settled or prevented from continuing building operations.

He declared that manufacturers' associations and banks had made inquiries as to the meaning of the no-jurisdictional strike policy.

"I am assuming," he said, "that it means unit department is looking forward to stimulating construction with private money to the end that there will be no need for the use of governmental funds in competition with private enterprise."

He claimed there was an ample supply of building mechanics available for construction work and that the 40 per cent of the A. F. L. membership now working on public construction "will gladly return to private employment."

WAGE-HOUR RULES FOR FARM WORKERS ISSUED

Andrews Says Exemptions from Fair Labor Standards Act Include First Processing of Agricultural Products and Many Allied Steps.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The first broad summary of the exemptions for agricultural and for processing of agricultural commodities under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 was made public here August 21 by George A. Mehlin, General Counsel, Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

The 32-page interpretative bulletin outlines the principles which have guided officials of the Wage and Hour Division in the administration of the act and is designed to answer thousands of questions asked by farming processors of farm products, and farm and processing employes.

Exempted Occupations

The bulletin says the following occupations related to farming come under the term "agriculture" and are therefore exempt from the act:

The production, cultivation and growing of any agricultural or horticultural commodity, the raising, catching, dairying, poultry raising, bee raising, raising of fur-bearing animals.

Also exempted are any practices (including any forestry or lumbering operations) performed by a farmer or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with such farming operations. These include: Preparation for market, delivery to market or to market or to carriers for transportation to market of any raw farm products.

First Processors Excluded

The act exempts workers employed in the first processing of farm products only when it is "not changed in the form of raw materials."

This includes the processing (including ginning) of fresh fruits and vegetables. Fresh fruits, such as tomatoes, must come from a farmer's own farm or from farms in the vicinity in this connection, the hulling, shelling, cracking or grinding of wholegrains, including corn and rice, or flour are exempt, as are the stemming, redrying and fermenting of tobacco.

The processing of nuts, the bulletin said, is not exempt. Nuts, it was stated, "are not in the shell when the raw material is received, and the first change in the form of raw materials.

This includes the processing (including sorting) of fresh fruits and vegetables. Fresh fruits, such as tomatoes, must come from a farmer's own farm or from farms in the vicinity in this connection, the hulling, shelling, cracking or grinding of wholegrains, including corn and rice, or flour are exempt, as are the stemming, redrying and fermenting of tobacco.

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The exemption also applies to the slaughtering of livestock and poultry and all operations generally performed in connection with the slaughtering, but it does not apply to poultry and livestock products or by-products when the manufacturing, curing, smoking, grading, refrigerating and packing of such products and by-products are not exempt.

Exemptions Under Dairying

"The term dairying includes the work of milking, the care of cows and caring the milk into containers, cooling it, and storing it on the farm," the summary added. "It includes the first legislative history of the act indicates that if the farmer and his employes engage in such operations as separating the cream from milk obtained from the farm, pasteurizing the cream, putting such milk and cream, or making butter and cheese out of such cream and cream, those operations also fall within the exemption."

The term "forestry or lumbering operations," as used in the exemption, "refers to the cultivation and management of forests, the felling and transportation of logs and timber, the cutting of cordwood and pulpwood, and the processing of logs and timber into rough lumber and timber products. It also includes the piling, stacking and storing of all such products. "Wood working" as such is not included.

Further exemptions under the first processing clause, where the employer is not connected with any farm, but merely work with raw farm products, are:

A complete exemption from the hour provisions to employes "in any place of employment" where the employer is engaged in the first processing of milk, whey, skimmed milk, cream into butter or cheese.

The same complete exemption where the employer is engaged in the first processing of sugar beets, sugar beet molasses, sugar cane or maple sap into sugar (but not refined sugar) or into syrup.

The bulletin also defines exemptions from the hours provisions of the act applicable for 14 weeks during the processing of seasonal or perishable fresh fruits or vegetables.

4 ST. PAUL FIRMS SIGN WAREHOUSE UNION PACT

St. Paul, Minn. (AFLWNS).—Officials of Warehouse Workers Local Union No. 503, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, reported the negotiation of four agreements.

Outstanding among them was the third annual agreement with the G. Sommers & Company, which renewed the advantageous terms of the former agreements and, in addition, established the 40-hour week with no reduction in wages. The 1938 agreement set up the 40-hour week for seven months of the year and the 44-hour week for the remaining five months. The new contract establishes the 40-hour week the year round. Other provisions of the new agreement are the designation of the union as the sole bargaining agent, weekly instead of semi-monthly pay days, plant seniority, one week's vacation with pay for employes of 15 months' service.

Other firms reported by the union as having signed union contracts were the E. J. Stilwell Paper Co., the Snyder Cold Rate Service Co., and the St. Paul Market Houses.

PEARSON AND ALLEN GET THEIR DATES MIXED UP

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen, columnists, in their "Washington Daily Merry-Go-round" column, in which personalities in public life, refer to Ralph Morrison as having been secretary of the American Federation of Labor since 1897 and "secretary-treasurer since 1902."

The columnists are three years off in their secretary-treasurer date. Mr. Morrison was elected secretary of the American Federation of Labor by the 1896 A. F. of L. convention, succeeding the duties of the office January 1, 1897. He was reelected secretary every year thereafter until 1938.

The 1935 A. F. of L. convention merged the offices of secretary and treasurer into the office of secretary-treasurer and elected Mr. Morrison to the merged office. He assumed the duties of secretary-treasurer January 1, 1936, and has been reelected every year since then.

SLOW WPA PROJECTS FACE LOSS OF FEDERAL FUNDS

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—Fifty-six cities and towns in 26 States had better get a move on them selves and speed up the work on 67 Public Works Administration projects involving $202,176,787. If they fail to put a bit of ginger in the construction of the projects they will wake up some morning to find out that the Federal grants ("grant" is a high-sounding word that means an outright gift) have been stopped.

This warning was issued in a notice sent out by Acting Public Works Commissioner E. W. Clark, who informed the delinquents that the PWA is far behind schedule and that grants will not be made after June 30, 1940.

It is suggested that in localities where work in connection with PWA projects is underway delay in securing labor inject a little more zeal into the local authorities to see to it that the projects shall be completed before the June 30 deadline. Otherwise the local authorities will be required to foot the entire bill.

RICHMOND UNIONS PICKET TWO ANTI-UNION CONCERNS

Richmond, Va. (AFLWNS).—The Richmond Building and Construction Trades Council, affiliated with the A. F. of L. Building and Construction Trades Department, picketed the offices of the Lafayette Construction Corporation and the shoe store operated by R. C. Leggo, Inc. Union officials said the construction company had refused to employ union labor on work being done to the L'Wen Shoe in the Arcade Building and that the shoe store management had let a contract for construction work to Doyle & Russell, a firm which declined to use union labor.

MEAT CUTTERS SIGN UP NEW MEMPHIS GROCERY

Memphis, Tenn. (AFLWNS).—Officials of the Memphis Local of the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, A. F. of L. affiliate, announced that the new Pic-Way No. 1 grocery store is union shop with two union butchers handling the meat supply.

HOSIERY WORKERS PAY INCREASED BY ANDREWS

Minimum of 40 Cents Per Hour For Full-Fashioned and 32½ Cents For Seamless Branch; 46,000 Benefited.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Elmer F. Andrews, Administrator of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, made public on August 21 the official text of the first minimum wage order issued by his office. The order establishes 32½ cents an hour as the legal minimum wage for the seamless branch of the hosiery industry and 40 cents an hour for the full-fashioned branch. These rates take the place of the minimum rate of 25 cents an hour set by the act as applicable to all industries whose products come under interstate commerce.

The order becomes effective Sept. 18 and is expected to increase wages in the seamless employment. Under the Fair Labor Standards Act a thirty-cent-an-hour minimum rate becomes effective automatically Oct. 24 for all covered industries.

Industry Committee No. 3, covering the hosiery industry, met in Washington Feb. 1, 1939, and filed its recommendations for the 32½ cent and 40 cent rates with Mr. Andrews on May 20, 1939. Public hearings were subsequently held and then Mr. Andrews upheld the recommendations.

Mr. Andrews declared that, for the most part, the wages which he has now offered in evidence at the hearing recommended by workers will be in the estimate regarding the effect of the recommended wage rates upon the industry and employment.

"Most of these data and these estimates were corroborated both by witnesses for the industry and those who opposed the recommendations," he asserted.

Pointing out that most of the seamless plants are located in the South, while most of the full-fashioned plants are in the North, Mr. Andrews said that the group of plants in the seamless branch, which will be most affected by the 32½-cent-an-hour minimum wage rate, consists of those paying less than 25 cents prior to Oct. 24, 1938.

This group, located in the South, amounted to about one-tenth of the plants in the branch and the workers employed about 8 per cent of the industry, or 4,900, according to Mr. Andrews.

Discussing the 40-cent minimum wage rate for the full-fashioned industry, Mr. Andrews claimed that the increase of 40 cents would not raise the aggregate wage bill in this branch more than 2.1 per cent. As the labor cost is only 20 per cent of the total cost, he said that the 2.1 per cent increase would result in an average increase in manufacturing cost of less than 1 per cent of the total manufacturing cost.

Fifty thousand of employes in the full-fashioned section of the industry, said the subsistence of a family of well in excess of 55 cents an hour. Only 2 per cent of the full-fashioned plants and only 4 per cent of the employment would be affected, the report stated.

5,000 TRUCK DRIVERS WIN OHIO AGREEMENT

Columbus, Ohio (AFLWNS).—Five thousand truck drivers belonging to locals of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, A. F. of L. affiliate, secured more advantageous terms in a statewide agreement negotiated here by Joseph Padway, counsel for the Highway Drivers Council, representing the drivers, and the Ohio State Transportation Association, representing the employers.

The agreement, covering "over-the-road" and "peddle-run" drivers throughout Ohio, provides for the payment of a minimum wage rate of 80 cents an hour and 85¼ cents an hour. Union drivers now receiving more than that rate will continue to receive it. Other provisions to receive their established rate. The agreement ends October 1, 1941.

TWO WEEKS' WAR GAMES COST OVER $3,000,000

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Statisticians estimate that the two weeks war games pulled off by 75,000 officers and men of the U. S. Army at Plattsburg, N. Y., and Manassas, Va., cost the Government more than $3,000,000. The purpose of the war games was to train soldiers in the art of successfully attacking an imaginary enemy and resisting an imaginary enemy's attack.

Tacoma Lumber Workers Support 450 Strikers and Their Families

Commissary Has Spent $10,000 to Aid Rebels Against Low Wages Paid by Northwest Door Company.

Tacoma, Wash. (AFLWNS).—The strike of 450 employes of the Northwest Door Company here went into its eighth week with the commissary set up by Tacoma District Council of the A. F. of L. Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union functioning smoothly and efficiently in taking care of the strikers and their families.

Union officials reported that ten thousand dollars worth of foodstuffs had already been distributed. The Puget Sound District Council has contributed $2,000 in two months, and the Tacoma L. S. W. local has paid out $3,000.

The strike had been brewing for a long time before it finally began. Starting with an obsolete plant four years ago, the Northwest Door Company was developed into an efficient plant with the production per man practically double what it was formerly.

Despite this increased efficiency the company had refused to raise wages commensurately with the larger production. Union officials assert that nearly 300 of the employes have been receiving wages below the scale warranted by the type of the job they are performing. When negotiations failed the necessary adjustments the strike was called.

Int'l Woodworkers Federation Will Send Delegates to Bldg. Trades Dept. Convention

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The International Federation of Building and Woodworkers will be represented at the annual convention of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor in Cincinnati September 24 to 30, President John P. Coyne, of the Department announced today.

The delegation will be headed by Ralph Hedtkopf, president of the International Federation, who is also general secretary of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives of Great Britain and Ireland.

The purpose of the visit is to discuss international aspects of the building industry.

"Now that the time," said President Coyne in making the announcement, "that our European brethren have attended one of our conventions and it is not unlikely we will send delegates to lunch at each other's conventions."

It is probable that the International Federation delegates will visit many American cities.

A. F. L. Lumber Workers File $11,000 Suit Against Portland C. I. O. Union

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Portland, Oregon.—The Portland District Council of the A. F. of L. Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union filed suit in the Circuit Court of Oregon at Portland against 1,423 members of the C. I. O. International Woodworkers of America, Local No. 3, its officers and the I.W.A. itself to recover $11,269 illegally taken by the dual outfit when the sawdust C. I. O. movement was engineered.

The Multnomah County sheriff issued nineteen garnishments requiring all banks in Portland and vicinity to hold up the wages of 250 of the defendants. Seven garnishments were also issued against the employers of approximately 300 of the defendants.

It was stated that similar garnishments would be issued against the employes of two other plants—Jones Lumber Company and Inman-Poulsen —prior to pay day.

In addition to the members of the C. I. O. union specifically mentioned by name, the suit included numerous John Does.

Officials of the A. F. of L. Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union said the decisions handed down by the highest courts in Washington and Oregon had ordered the C. I. O. lumber workers unions to return A. F. of L. property and funds in similar cases in both States, but that the C. I. O. leaders in Portland had persistently refused to act in accordance with these decisions and had refused to turn the wages confiscated from the American Federation of Labor union.

As soon as the suit was filed attorneys for the C. I. O. International Woodworkers of America moved to quash it. But the court recognized the validity of the suit and the justice of the claim.

300 PLUMBERS STRIKE FOR $13 DAILY WAGE

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—Members of the Washington Local of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada, an A. F. of L. affiliate, went on strike against firms employing plumbers organized in the Plumbers Guild because of their refusal to sign an agreement raising the daily wage from $12 to $13. The strike order involved approximately 300 plumbers and affected a number of public buildings in course of construction.

Union officials said the $12 rate had prevailed since 1929, and that union members felt they were entitled to a raise.

600,000 BRITISH RAIL MEN THREATEN STRIKE

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

According to press dispatches from England, some 600,000 organized railroad employes, after six months of fruitless negotiations with the representatives of the British railroads on the question of increased wages, decided to strike unless the railway magnates agreed to pay a minimum weekly wage of 50 shillings in place of the present minimum of 45 shillings.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES FORM FOUR NEW LODGES

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—The chartering of four new lodges was announced by officials of the American Federation of Government Employes, A. F. of L. affiliate.

In New England, a lodge was established at the Newport Naval Station. In Washington, D. C., a lodge was formed among employes at the Walter Reed General Army Hospital. In Baltimore, the nurses at the Public Health Service formed a lodge, and at Austin, Texas, the custodial employes of the U. S. Court House Internal Revenue Bureau and the Post Office formed a lodge.

Many additional chartered lodges reported large increases in membership.

CLERKS ORGANIZE THREE COLORADO SPRINGS STORES

Colorado Springs, Colo. (AFLWNS).—Officials of the recently organized Local No. 167 of the Retail Clerks International Protective Association, A. F. of L. affiliate, announced that the employes of three large stores here were 100 per cent organized with an increasing membership in many other local establishments.

The 100 per cent unionized stores are the Sherwin-Williams Co., the Rothschild & Son, and Lorig's, all three of which display union window cards.

BREWERY UNION REPORTS TEN AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Cincinnati, Ohio (AFLWNS).—The negotiation of ten new or renewed agreements was announced by the officials of the International Brewery, United Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers of America. The pacts provide up for union wages, hours and work conditions were: Lime Rock Bottling Co., New York, N. Y.; Hull Brewing Co., Wuehle Brewing Co., and Old England Brewing Co., Newark, N. J.; Robert Brewing Co., Cincinnati, Ill.; Stegher Brewing Co., Murphysboro, Ill.; Esslinger Company, Philadelphia, Pa.; Bloomsburg Breweries and Blesser Brewing Co., Manowese, Wis.; Enterprise Brewing Co., Fall River, Mass.

The contract with the Hull Brewing Co., New Haven, Conn., includes a label agreement, and the contract with the Enterprise Brewing Co., Fall River, Mass., included a vacation provision.

12 PER CENT OF IDLE IN MILWAUKEE GET WORK

Milwaukee, Wis. (AFLWNS).—The tragical extent of the jobless army in Milwaukee is visualized in the report of the Milwaukee County Committee on Unemployment that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939, only 14,784 persons out of 121,584 for jobs registered with the Milwaukee office of the Wisconsin State Employment Service were given work.

9 KNOXVILLE FIRMS SIGN RESTAURANT UNION PACT

Knoxville, Tenn. (AFLWNS).—The Knoxville Local of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International Alliance, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, announced that nine more Knoxville restaurants and lunch bars in uptown areas are displaying the union house card with all employes union members.

RETAIL CLERKS INCREASE MEMBERSHIP IN ST. PAUL

St. Paul, Minn. (AFLWNS).—The St. Paul Retail Clerks Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, reported remarkable success in the union's organization drive. At the last two meetings 132 new members were initiated. The Golden Rule and the Emporium house furnishings departments are practically 100 per cent organized.

LOW-RENT HOUSING PLAN LAUNCHED BY NEW YORK

Allocation of $150,000,000 Slum Clearance Fund Is Begun.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Albany, N. Y.—Edward Weinfeld, head of the New York State Housing Division, took the preliminary steps to set in motion the New York housing program authorized by the recently enacted Slum Clearance acts, under which $150,000,000 is made available for low-rent housing loans and $1,000,000 a year for aid in State subsidy, with the provision that only $250,000,000 of bonds and $25,000 in subsidies may be disbursed in the 1939-1940 fiscal year. Two-thirds of these funds will be allocated to be located to New York City; the balance is reserved for the rest of the State.

In acquainting political subdivisions with the funds available for slum clearance work during the present fiscal year, Mr. Weinfeld pointed out that the act requires the locality to contribute a loan to match the annual State subsidies dollar for dollar, but that part or all of the subsidy contributed by localities may be made in the form of tax exemption.

In addition, he stressed the provision of the law that all housing projects undertaken with State aid shall be part of a program for the clearance of slum and substandard areas.

When the State housing program gets under way it will provide employment for many jobless building trades workers and for more jobless in work at the site and in the manufacture of supplies.

TRUCK DRIVERS UNION WINS MILWAUKEE STRIKE

Milwaukee, Wis. (AFLWNS).—Truck Drivers Local Union No. 200 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, won a two weeks' strike against six wholesale grocery establishments here.

Union spokesmen said the agreements negotiated call for practically closed shop, a guarantee of 44 hours work a week, with preference to the union men for overtime, one week's annual vacation with pay and pay for holidays.

The agreements also contain a stipulation that after the 45-hour week prescribed by the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act becomes effective next October 24 the employes will be paid overtime for all hours worked in excess of 45. In slack periods nonunion men will be laid off before union members.